

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-6 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 7, 9, 13, 17, 20, 30, 32, and 36 as follows:

sub B.1  
q2  
7(amended). A method of treating a patient having chronic HCV infection which comprises administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a combination therapy of interferon-alfa and ribavirin for a time sufficient to substantially lower HCV-RNA in association with a therapeutically effective amount of an antioxidant for a time sufficient to ameliorate ribavirin-related hemolysis.

a3  
9(amended). The method of claim 7 wherein the antioxidant is Vitamin A, Vitamin E, Vitamin C, coenzyme-Q10, butylated hydroxyanisole ("BHA"), butylated hydroxytoluene ("BHT"), N-acetylcysteine, selenium, 4,4'-isopropylidenedithiobis-2,6-di-*t*-butylphenol("panavir"), silybum marianum, lycopene, or mixtures thereof.

a4  
13(amended). The method of claim 7 wherein the combination therapy comprising 3 Million International Units ("MIU"), three times a week ("TIW") of interferon alfa-2b and about 600 mg to about 1600 mg/day, orally ("PO") of ribavirin is administered for a first time period of at least about 24 weeks.

a5  
17(amended). The method of claim 7 wherein the combination therapy comprises about 0.5 to about 1.5  $\mu$ g/kg, once a week ("QW") of pegylated interferon alfa-2b and about 600 to about 1600 mg/day of ribavirin.

a6  
20(amended). A method of treating a patient having a chronic HCV infection which comprises administering to said patient for a first time period of at least about 24 weeks a therapeutically effective amount of interferon alfa and ribavirin sufficient to substantially lower detectable HCV-RNA in association with a

a<sup>6</sup>  
level.

~~B~~  
therapeutically effective amount of an antioxidant sufficient to ameliorate ribavirin-related hemolysis.

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a<sup>7</sup>

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30(amended). The method of claim 20 wherein the combination therapy comprises about 0.5 to about 1.5 µg/kg, QW of pegylated interferon alfa-2b and about 600 to about 1600 mg/day of ribavirin.

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32(amended). A method of treating a patient having a chronic HCV infection which comprises (a) administering to said patient for a first time period a therapeutically effective amount of a combination therapy of interferon alfa and ribavirin sufficient to substantially lower detectable HCV-RNA in association with a therapeutically effective amount of an antioxidant sufficient to ameliorate ribavirin-related hemolysis; and (b) thereafter administering about 600 to about 1600 mg/day of ribavirin in association with the antioxidant for a second time period of at least about 24 weeks after the end of the first time period.

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a<sup>9</sup>

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36(amended). The method of claim 32 wherein the combination therapy comprises about 0.5 to about 1.5 µg/kg/day, QW of pegylated interferon alfa-2b and about 600 to about 1600 mg/day of ribavirin.

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